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MISCELLANEOUS AND LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

The late Hon. Isaac Royall, formerly of Medford, and at his decease of Kensington, Great Britain, by his will dated 1773, and a codicil 1779, bequeathed to the University certain lands, with power to sell them and apply the income of the capital obtained, towards endowing a Professorship of Law. The income, although not sufficient for the maintenance of a resident professor, affording a compensation for a competent number of lectures in jurisprudence, considered as a part of general education, the Corporation with the consent of the Overseers, have added to the institution a Professor of Law. He is styled the Royall Professor of Law, so long as the endowment by Mr. Royall shall constitute the largest part of the fund appropriated to this professorship, but may have another name if at any time hereafter his bequest should be exceeded by the benefaction of some other person.

The lectures are to be given three or four times a week, between the middle of March and May of each year, to the members of the senior class, to resident graduates, and to students of law, and others specially admitted.

The Hon. Isaac Parker is appointed to this office, which he has accepted with the view of commencing the lectures the next season, it being a part of the year when the official duties of the Chief Justice will not interfere with those of the Professor.

We are happy that our educated young men are to be guided to a knowledge of the general principles of law, and their application to our forms of civil and ecclesiastical polity under the auspices of a civilian, so entirely the object of public confidence.

The Rev. John Snelling Popkin, D. D. has entered upon the office of College Professor of Greek, to give the whole instruction to the classes in that department. He succeeds Mr. Asher Ware, late College Professor of Greek, who has resigned his office.

Six students have been admitted into the sophomore class, and sixty four into that of the freshmen, since commencement.

John C. Warren, M. D. late adjunct professor, was recently publicly inducted in the University Chapel, into the office of Hersey Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

Jacob Bigelow, M. D. was announced as Lecturer on *Materia Medica* and Botany. And,

* Walter Channing, M. D. as Lecturer on Midwifery.

* The lectures of the Medical School of the University, commence this month in Boston.

A complete new chemical apparatus, for the use of the College at Cambridge, procured in London by an agent, expressly sent for the purpose, has been shipped and will be used in the lectures next spring.

A plan to raise a small fund for the commencement of an institution for the promotion of the Fine Arts in this town, has been for some time past in agitation, and some steps towards commencing a subscription, have been taken, which several gentlemen have promised to aid. Its further prosecution is postponed for a short time. In the next number some observations on the subject will be given, and some mention of the artists, now living here, as well as of those who are temporarily absent, and whose return would be certain, if they could hope for that encouragement, which an institution of this kind would greatly contribute to afford.

The Agricultural Society of Connecticut have published an Almanack for the use of farmers, which is said to be on a very improved plan; and as every farmer purchases an Almanack, much useful information is given to them in this way. We have not seen one of them, but, a work of this kind might certainly be made of increased utility, and might be issued under the direction, or patronage, of the Agricultural Societies of other States.

The Cattle show, and exhibition of domestick manufactures at Pittsfield, is stated to have been very fully attended this season, and to have afforded the most satisfactory proofs of the melioration of our breeds of cattle and sheep; and the improvement of many branches of domestick manufactures. Exhibitions of this kind have greatly contributed to the present flourishing state of agriculture in England, and it would have the most beneficial effect to multiply them here. An annual show of this kind, in Boston or its neighbourhood, for the distribution of premiums, would be attended with salutary effects, and is much wanted. Perhaps there might be added to it, in some village in the neighbourhood, a Fair for the sale of fat cattle, as such numerous droves are brought here annually to be slaughtered.

The militia reviews of this autumn, have been extensive and satisfactory. The First Division, consisting of three brigades, amounting in all to between five and six thousand men, were reviewed at Dedham. The Second Division was also reviewed by brigades, at Boxford and Danvers, each brigade containing upwards of two thousand. The equipment and discipline of the militia has greatly improved within a short period in this State. They are all well armed, all the officers, commissioned and non-

commissioned, all the cavalry and artillery, and many of the infantry companies are in uniform. There are upwards of one hundred brass field pieces, with all the appendages complete, distributed among the different companies of artillery; and a greater degree of emulation exists in this important branch of service than formerly.

Proposals are issued for publishing the biography of the late Rev. John Murray, in one volume.

General Wilkinson intends to publish memoirs of his own time, in three volumes.

A collection of books recently imported from Holland, will be sold at auction in Boston, on the 20th of December. Descriptive catalogues are ready to be issued. A more rare and valuable assortment of books was never before exposed for sale in the United States, and there are among these several, which it may be safely affirmed cannot be found in any library in the country. There are some modern German and French authors, but the greater part are chosen editions of the ancient classicks, standard works in theology and criticism. Among them may be cited a splendid edition of Calvin in nine folio volumes, bound in vellum, a copy of the Byzantine historians, the most valuable edition of Bayle, &c. &c. Among the criticks, are the works of Buxtorf, Erasmus, Le Clerc, Lipsius, Hammond, Lightfoot, Salmasius, Schultens, Crellius, Scaliger, Socinus, Poole, Przypcanius, Father Simon, Dupin, Carpzovius, Vitringa and Vossius. An opportunity is offered to theologians, literary men, and college libraries, of obtaining invaluable standard works, such as has never offered in this country, and but rarely in Europe. We shall not dwell on the value of these books, as those who are capable of appreciating them, will be able to judge of them by the catalogue which will be distributed in season, in all our principal towns.

BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND.

A volume of posthumous poetry of William Cowper, Esq. and a sketch of his life by the Rev. John Johnson.*

Travels through Poland, Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, and the Tyrol, in 1807 and 1808, by Baron Uklanski.

PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

Fragments of several orations of Cicero, with a commentary of Ascanius Vedianus, from original MSS. lately discovered in the Ambrosian library at Milan. To be published under the direction of Mr. J. G. Jackson.

* Mess^{rs} Wells and Lilly have re-printed this volume.

The life and campaigns of Field Marshal Prince Blücher, translated from the German of General Gneisenau, by J. E. Marston.

Memoirs of John Duke of Marlborough, two volumes quarto, drawn from private correspondence and family documents, preserved at Blenheim, by Mr. Archdeacon Coxe.

The life of James the Second, King of England, collected out of memoirs written by himself, also his advice to his son, and his last will. By the Rev. J. S. Clarke.

Dr. Young is printing a work, entitled a practical and historical treatise on consumptive diseases, exhibiting a concise account of the state of medical science in all ages.

It is said to have been discovered in England, that *larch* trees are very noxious to many others, such as poplars, plane, and willows, and that the decay of the orchards, the fruit not only being blighted: but the trees themselves being in a dying state, is owing to these trees. That the larch contains a kind of white powder on every twig, which is full of insects, and which being carried to the other trees occasions their destruction. In the county of Essex, they are considered by many persons, on account of these very insects, noxious to man. That many families who had suffered by having these trees grow near their dwellings, had recovered when they had been cut down.

There has been lately published in England, a ‘Memoir on the Ruins of Babylon. By Claudius James Rich, Esq. president for the Hon. East India Company, at the court of the Pasha of Bagdad, with three plates.’ From some account of this work, and extracts from it in the *Literary Panorama*, for August last, it must be a very interesting one, particularly as illustrating several texts of scripture, in relation to the mode of building, and the destruction of that city.

In some account of the proceedings of the Royal Society in the *Monthly Magazine* for August, there is the following article. ‘J. G. Children, Esq. submitted to the society, a description of his very large galvanick battery, each plate of which consisted of 32 square feet, and related the effects of a great number of experiments made with it in producing intense heat, in melting metals, &c. one experiment was on iron. He and Mr. Pepys took a piece of soft iron, made a cavity in it to hold some diamond powder, and then submitted it to the action of the galvanick battery; when the iron was instantly converted into blister steel, and the diamond entirely disappeared. This experiment the author concluded, was quite satisfactory to prove that the diamond contains nothing but pure carbon.

[There have been several instances of springs of fresh water that have ebbed and flowed with regularity; various conjectures have been made about the cause. By the following account taken from the *Monthly Magazine* for August, a very remarkable effect was discovered on a stream of fresh water, which is clearly produced by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, though the mode of its operation does not seem perfectly ascertained.]

On an ebbing and flowing stream discovered by boring in the harbour of Bridlington; by John Storer, M. D.

The following account of certain peculiarities attending a spring of fresh water, which was tapped in boring within the harbour of Bridlington quay, Yorkshire, is given from repeated observations made during a residence of some weeks there, in the months of July and August, 1814. The harbour of Bridlington quay is dry at low water, except for a rivulet which traverses its bed: at high water it has from fifteen to seventeen feet of water. Mr. Rennie, civil engineer, was consulted in the year 1811, respecting certain improvements projected in that harbour. At his desire, with a view to ascertain the depth of a stratum of clay in the harbour, the boring, which terminated in forming the well to be described, was begun under the direction of Mr. Milne, collector of the customs for the port. The spot fixed upon is opposite to the termination, of a street leading to the harbour, and has about six feet of water at high water in ordinary tides.

After the workmen had bored through twenty eight feet of very solid clay, and afterwards through fifteen feet of a cretaceous flinty gravel, of a very concrete texture, the augur was perceived to strike against the solid rock; but, as they were not able to make any impression upon it, the work was given up for that tide, without any appearance of water from the first. In an hour or two afterwards, the bore was found filled to the top with fresh water, of the most limpid appearance: it soon flowed over, and was even projected some inches above the summit of the bore, in a stream equal to its calibre. When it was ascertained that the water was of the purest quality and taste, perfectly fit for washing, and every culinary purposes, the bore was properly secured by an elm stock, ten feet long, and perforated with a three-inch augur, driven to its full length; a copper tube well tinned on both sides, of a circumference to admit of its being passed through the bore of an elm stock, and thirty-two feet in length, was then forced to the bottom of the bore, so as to rest on the rock. The upper part being properly puddled round the elm stock, and the well thus completed, the following singular circumstances were observed, and have continued with great uniformity ever since.

As soon as the surface of the sea water in the harbour, during the flowing tide, has arrived at a level of forty-nine or fifty inches lower than the top of the bore, the water begins to flow from it in a stream equal to its calibre, the impetus of which is increased as the tide advances, and may be observed to be propelled with much force after the bore is overflowed by the tide. The discharge continues from four to five hours, i. e. till the tide in returning falls to the same level where it began to flow : at this point it ceases completely till the next flood shall have regained the same level, when the same phenomena recur, in the same succession, and without any variation, but what arises from the different degrees of elevation in the tides. The rule appears to be, that the column of spring water in the bore is always supported at a height of forty-nine or fifty inches above the level of the tide, at any given time. This at least was the result of every observation I made during several successive weeks in the months of July and August last ; and, I am assured by Mr. Milne, on whose ingenuity and habit of accurate observation I can place the firmest reliance, that his habitual experience, for three years past, goes to convince him, that the variations from the rule stated above, are very inconsiderable during the summer and autumnal months ; but, that in winter, after any unusual fall of rain, he has known the column of fresh water raised eight feet above the level of the tide, and the period of its discharge proportionally prolonged.

For the use of the town and shipping, a reservoir, of brick work, capable of containing one thousand gallons, has been constructed within two or three yards, and upon a somewhat higher level than the summit of the bore, and is made to communicate with it by a tube of the same diameter, fitted with a valve to prevent any reflux into the well. Two waste pipes are placed within a foot of the top of the reservoir, for the regular discharge of the water, and it has also been made to communicate with a pump adjoining, by which the reservoir may be emptied ; and as the bore of the well is now closed and secured at the top, it is obvious that the commencement of the flow of water, from the pipes of the reservoir, will happen a few minutes sooner or later at each tide, according to the quantity of water it contained at the time. Such, however, is the known regularity of the discharge from the waste pipes, that at the expected time of the tide several of the inhabitants are always on the spot with their vessels, and are rarely obliged to wait for more than five minutes.

Such is the state of facts, and it appears to open a subject of curious investigation to those whose habits and practical knowledge qualify them for it. The appearances seem not to admit of any satisfactory explanation, without supposing some mode of subterranean communication, by which the water of the sea, and that of the spring in question, are brought into actual contact, so as to exert a reciprocal action. This supposition receives con-

siderable support from a circumstance which I had no opportunity to observe, but which Mr. Milne has had frequent occasion to notice ; and which he describes by remarking, that after stormy weather, when there is a heavy sea on that coast, the water is discharged even from the waste pipes of the reservoir, with an evident undulation : which, of course, would be more considerable from the original bore.

Mr. Milne has framed an hypothesis to satisfy his own mind on this curious subject. He believes the stratum of clay found in the harbour, to extend over the whole bay in front of it, as far as the Smithwick Sand, which forms a bar across the opening of the bay, in a direction from Flamborough Head, towards the Spurn Point, and about four miles from the quay, in a south east direction. The bank is supported by a reef of rocks ; and, though there are openings which are well known, and admit vessels of considerable burthen at all times of the tide, there is in general but a small draught of water on this bank when the tide is out. On the outward, or east side, towards the ocean, the rock is quite perpendicular, and a great depth of water is immediately behind it. As the copious source of water which has been tapped in the harbour, lies at such a depth, and under a stratum of clay, there is no reason to think that it can be discharged any where in the bay, till it arrives at the ledge of rock where the clay terminates. Here among the fissures of the rock it may find its exit : and this is more likely, as it is known that the bed of the sea, at the back of the Smithwick Sand, is at so much a lower level.

Admitting this supposition to be correct, or nearly so, it seems to follow, that the issue of a body of fresh water through a fissure of the rock forming the bed of the sea, would meet with more or less resistance at different times of the tide ; because the two columns of fluid, in meeting, would act upon one another in the ratio of the altitude of each, taking into the account the difference of their specific gravity ; and thus, if there is any approach to an equilibrium, an operation would result analogous to the flux and reflux of the tide, near the mouth of rivers.

This hypothesis is specious, and accounts for the flux and reflux of the water from the bore, as well as for the singular undulation of the discharge in a boisterous state of the sea ; but the greater relative altitude to which the column of spring water is elevated after much rain, and the consequent prolonged discharge of it, during each tide, seems to militate against its correctness ; since, in a case, where, by the supposition, a balance is nearly established, an additional impetus communicated to the column of spring water, ought to produce the opposite effect, by enabling it to overcome the resistance of the same column of sea water during a longer period of each tide, than under the usual circumstances.

It is not improbable, that this whole subject might be elucidated, by a more perfect acquaintance with the peculiarities of the springs on this part of the coast, provincially termed *gipsies*. The water in this district of the East Riding of Yorkshire, possesses that limpidness which is usual in cretaceous soils ; but, for many miles of the Wolds behind Bridlington, very little water is to be seen. There are few rivulets, and these are very low in the summer, and most of them quite dry in autumn. The account to be collected from the inhabitants is, that, in two or three weeks after the commencement of frost, the springs begin to run copiously ; and in many the water is projected with such impetuosity as to resemble a *jet d'eau* ; it is then said, in the language of the country, that ‘the gipsies are up,’ and the rivulets overflow.

OBITUARY.

DEATHS AT HOME.

In New-Hampshire. General George Reed, aged 88. An officer of the Revolution, and a citizen venerable for his age and his virtues.

In Massachusetts. The Rev. John Murray, aged 75. Senior Pastor of the First Universal Society in Boston. His friends have issued proposals for publishing a biography of his life. *In Taunton*, Dr. Philip Padelford, aged 62. A respectable physician. *In Princetown*, Dr. Isaac Warren, jr. aged 28. *At Hallowell*, Hon. Nathaniel Dummer, aged 60. *In Boston*, Dr. Anson Smith, of Upper Canada. *In Portland*, Lieut. Kirvine Waters, of the U. S. Navy, from a wound received in the engagement between the *Enterprise* and *Boxer*. *In Brookfield*, Mrs. Kice, aged 86, a lineal descendant in the fifth generation from Peregrine White, the first child born in Plymouth Colony. *In Newburyport*, Dr. Micajah Sawyer, aged 77, a physician of eminence, and a citizen of great respectability. *In Ston*, Capt. J. Whitman, killed by a stage passing over him, and, the same day, Charles Hale, one of his neighbours, by a log passing over his body. *In Colerain*, Mr. T. Bell, killed in a sham action at a military review. *In Salem*, Hon. William Orné, President of the Essex Bank, an eminent merchant and very respectable citizen. H. D. Pickman, aged 19, a graduate of Harvard University, whose character had inspired sanguine hopes in his friends for his future distinction. *At Roxbury*, suddenly, while on a visit to a patient, Dr. Thomas Williams, aged 79.

In New York, Richard Alsop, Esq. of Middletown, Connecticut, aged 54. A man distinguished for his literary taste and attainments ; and greatly beloved for his integrity, his benevolence, and his amiable manners. He was the author of many fugitive pieces of poetry, and published several translations of French and Italian works. He left several works in MS. and as some of them are said to be complete, it may be hoped that they will be printed. *In Albany County*, Gen. Paul Todd, aged 57, expired suddenly, while apparently in perfect health and spirits. Rt. Rev. Samuel Provost, D. D. aged 73, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New York.